

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1 and 2 were pending in this application. Claim 2 has been canceled in this reply without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the invention recited. The amendments are fully supported by the original specification. No new matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,641,065 (hereinafter "Owens"). Claim 2 has been canceled in this reply. Thus, this rejection is moot with respect to claim 2. Claim 1 has been amended in this reply. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claim, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Embodiments of the claimed invention, for example, as shown in figures 1-3, provide an airtight container that is simple to use and inexpensive to produce. Claim 1 has been amended to specifically require locking flanges integrally pivotally coupled to the periphery of the lid through a thin hinge formed at the connecting portion of the lid. Advantageously, this allows the hinge to be easily produced through plastic injection molding. Claim 1 has been amended to also require hooking protrusions on the locking flanges that are accommodated by the accommodation groove of the hooking rib. Advantageously, the claimed invention's

hooking protrusion and accommodating groove allow the lid to be easily disengaged which is convenient for food storage.

Owens discloses a container in which the lid portion is secured to the bowl portion by latching members. The latching members are pivotly mounted on the lid portion by a pivot pin which permits pivoting of the latch member upwards and downwards.

As discussed above, the claimed invention requires a locking portion having locking flanges integrally pivotally coupled to the periphery of the lid through a thin hinge formed at a connecting portion of the lid and also hooking protrusions on the locking flanges that are accommodated by the accommodation groove of the hooking rib. Owens fails to show at least these limitations. Instead, Owens discloses a complicated structure including a pivot pin, which will have a higher production cost than the claimed invention and cannot provide the invention's advantages.

In view of the above, Owens fails to show or suggest the present invention as now recited in amended claim 1. Thus, claim 1, as amended, is patentable over Owens. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,034,889 (hereinafter "Hammes"). Claim 2 has been canceled in this reply. Thus, this rejection is moot with respect to claim 2. Claim 1 has been amended in this reply. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claim, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Embodiments of the claimed invention, for example, as shown in figures 1-3, provide an airtight container that is simple to use and inexpensive to produce. Claim 1 has been

amended to specifically require locking flanges integrally pivotally coupled to the periphery of the lid through a thin hinge formed at the connecting portion of the lid. Advantageously, this allows the hinge to be easily produced through plastic injection molding. Claim 1 has been amended to also require hooking protrusions on the locking flanges that are accommodated by the accommodation groove of the hooking rib. Advantageously, the claimed invention's hooking protrusion and accommodating groove allow the lid to be easily disengaged which is convenient for food storage.

Hammes discloses a container with upper and lower projecting shoulders on the outer wall of the container. The container cover has rigid closure flaps with hinges that fit around the upper shoulder and sawtooth shaped projections that hook into notched portions of the lower shoulder of the container body.

As discussed above, the claimed invention requires a locking portion having locking flanges integrally pivotally coupled to the periphery of the lid through a thin hinge formed at a connecting portion of the lid and also hooking protrusions on the locking flanges that are accommodated by the accommodation groove of the hooking rib. Hammes fails at least to show these limitations. Instead, the sawtooth locking mechanism of Hammes hooks into a lower shoulder and hinges fit around an upper shoulder. This does not allow for easy disengagement of the container cover or allow Hammes to provide the invention's advantages.

In view of the above, Hammes fails to show or suggest the present invention as now recited in amended claim 1. Thus, claim 1, as amended, is patentable over Owens. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 17081/003001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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